

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Early Childhood Higher Education Scholarship Program

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Division of Early Childhood Education (ECE) is responsible for coordinating early childhood education services to District of Columbia children and their families.

Request for Applications:

The *Pre-k Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2008*, Head Start Performance Standards, and DC Child Care Licensing Standards all emphasize early childhood educators having an associate's and bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development. OSSE is making available one (1) grant to support early childhood educators seeking higher education degrees. The grantee will be responsible for:

- Recruiting and establishing a relationships with OSSE-approved colleges and universities;
- Recruiting scholarship recipients and their employers;
- Supporting scholarship recipients from the application to course completion and degree attainment;
- Seeking additional funds to support the scholarship program;
- Tracking scholarship recipients' progress and other related data in "real time";
- Ensuring that participants meet the scholarship retention requirements;
- Tracking scholarship recipients' retention goals and other related data in "real time";
- Ensuring that meaningful incentives are awarded to scholarship recipients;
- Tracking incentives and other related data in "real time"; and
- Maintaining a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® license from the Child Care Services Association at the time of the grant award and through the duration of the grant.

Funds up to \$700,000.00 are available to support the grant awarded under this RFA. One hundred percent (100%) of the funding for the Early Childhood Higher Education Scholarship Program is made available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

Applicants must be a nonprofit organization licensed to do business in the District of Columbia. Applicants must have knowledge of the professional needs of the early childhood workforce in the District of Columbia, as demonstrated through prior experience in working with early childhood stakeholders, exposure to the demographic issues in the District, and familiarity with the higher education landscape and relevant resources necessary to further the objectives of this grant. Applicants cannot have a direct relationship with, or be a part of, any local early childhood program or higher education institution.

Important Dates:

The Request for Applications (RFA) will be available on April 30, 2010. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grants Services website (www.opgs.dc.gov) at the District Grants Clearinghouse link. Applications may also be obtained from Ms. Sandra McIver, Grants Management Specialist for ECE, 717 14th Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Please call (202) 727-8104. The RFA application deadline is June 4, 2010.

A Pre-Application Conference will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 717 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005. For preparation purposes, interested parties planning to attend the Pre-Application Conference are requested to RSVP to Ms. Sandra McIver at (202) 727-5045 or sandra.mciver@dc.gov.